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PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION OF

GUNARATNAM et al.

Group Art Unit: 3761

Appln. No.: 10/090,173

Examiner: M. PATEL

Filed: March 6, 2002

Title: MASK AND HEADGEAR CONNECTOR

March 25, 2002

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SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before examination on the merits, please further amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 23, 25 and 29-32 as follows:

B1
23. (Amended) A respiratory mask and headgear combination according to claim 22, wherein said cantilever member has a leading end, a trailing end, a locking portion, located intermediate said leading end and trailing end, structured to engage with said first connector portion, and release portion located adjacent said trailing end.

B2
25. (Amended) A respiratory mask and headgear combination according to claim 24, wherein a space is provided immediately behind said trailing end of the cantilever member.

B3
29. (Amended) A respiratory mask according to claim 28, wherein the mask frame includes a front wall portion defining a forward end of the mask frame, the front wall portion having a circular gas inlet aperture configured to connect to a gas delivery conduit, the mask frame including a pair of inclined side wall portions and a base portion, each of the side wall portions and the base portion having a portion thereof connected to the front wall portion.

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H. Rivers
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